(b) Tender action has been initiated to reconstruct Terminal 1-A which is expected to be completed by December, 1997. This terminal will cater to domestic traffic exclusively. Existing international terminal is adequate to cater to international traffic.

The contract between Air India and Caribjet

299. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the contract which was singed in December, 1994 between Air India and Caribjet;

(b) what are the names of bidders along with the rates quoted by each at that time; and

(c) whether prior approval of the Board was obtained before signing the agreement and, if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) M/s Caribjet was awarded the contract in November, 1994 for wet leasing of two A310-300 aircraft by Air India initially for a period of six months at a cost of USD 3285 per block hour.

(b) Besides M/s Caribjet, the only other positive response was received from M/s Air Club of Canada. The rates quoted are given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) The contract was awarded to M/s Caribjet on 16.11.94 and ratified by the Board on 24.11.94.

Statement

Lease rates in Us Dollor

		M/s Caribject	M/s Air Club
1.	Guaranteed Utilisation	175 hours per aircraft per fortnight	350 hours per aircraft per month
2.	Basic Charge	467,500 per aircraft per month	—
3.	Aircraft, crew maintenance and insurance	3285 per block hour	4650 per block hour upto 350 hours and there after 3650 per block hour.

NOTE : M/s Air Club had one aircraft on offer for 6 months and other aircraft for 12 months as against Air India's initial requirement of 2 aircraft for 6 months.

Russian built M1-17 helicopters

300. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian built M1-17 helicopters are in use in India for transport of goods or passengers;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof;

(c) whether Government have seen reports that Nepal has grounded these helicopters for safety reasons; and

(d) what safety precautions Indian Government have taken vis-a-vis these helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) M1-17 helicopters are not operating in Civil Sector in India.

(c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has not received any information on grounding of M1-17 helicopter by the Government of Nepal.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b).

Guidelines for Approval of non-Banking Financial Companies

301. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of Nidhi companies (non-banking financial companies) that have been approved by Government so far;

(b) the number of such proposals which are still pending with Government, state-wise;

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved;

(d) whether Government have detected any case of frauds by these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(f) steps being taken to modify the guidelines for approval of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Since 1963, 19